

CITY OF FREEPORT

NOVEMBER 16, 2015 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

I. Meeting Opened

The November 16, 2015 Special Council Meeting was opened by Mayor Russ Barley at 6:30 pm. The meeting was held in Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

Council members present: Councilman Eddie Farris, Councilwoman Kasey Cuchens, Councilwoman Janice McLean, Mayor Russ Barley, Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon and Councilwoman Jennifer Laird.

City staff present: Deputy Clerk/City Planner Latilda Hughes-Neel, City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, City Engineer Anna Hudson, and City Janitor James Bird

II. Invocation and Pledge

The Invocation was given by Councilman Farris, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

III. USDA Grants/Water Appropriations

Councilwoman Brannon stated that no projects were ready other than the Muscogee Water Project. Brannon asked permission to resubmit the project for Water Appropriation Funding and submit the project for other types of funding as well. Additionally, the City would submit to the NFWMD to replace 4" water lines with 6" lines, and add fire protection to McDaniel's Fish Camp Road. Engineer Hudson added that "not ready" means no construction plans.

Council Action: Councilman Farris motioned to submit all three projects for funding. Councilwoman McLean seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

IV. City Clerk Interviews

Mayor Barley asked the Council to consider having all of the Department Heads report to the Mayor instead of the City Clerk; to make the City Clerk an administrative position instead of a managerial position.

Council Action: Councilman Farris motioned to move all department heads under the Mayor. Councilwoman Cuchens seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Councilwoman Cuchens asked Attorney Adkinson if they were required to give a score to every candidate. Councilwoman Cuchens stated that she only wanted to score the candidates that she felt are qualified. Attorney Adkinson stated that it was okay not to

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give a candidate a score. He cautioned the Council to only interview candidates who meet the minimum standards of the position being offered,

The City Council then interviewed the following candidates for City Clerk:

- Valerie Broxson
- Mark Martin
- Rebecca Podraza

Deputy Clerk Hughes-Neel and Attorney Adkinson ranked the scores provided by the Council. Interviewed candidates were ranked as follows:

- 1st Place: Rebecca Podraza
- 2nd Place: Valerie Broxson
- 3rd Place: Mark Martin

Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon motioned to offer Rebecca Podraza the position of City Clerk at \$35,000 salary. Councilwoman McLean seconded the motion. Two (2) ayes (Brannon, McLean) and three (3) nays (Farris, Cuchens, Laird). Motion failed.

Councilwoman Cuchens and Councilwoman Laird stated that the salary needed to be higher.

Council Action: Councilwoman Laird motioned to hire Rebecca Podraza as City Clerk. Councilwoman Cuchens seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens motioned to allow the Mayor to negotiate with Podraza on salary and bring the information back to the Council on Thursday at the November 19, 2015 Special Council Meeting. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. Four (4) ayes (Farris, Cuchens, McLean and Laird) and one (1) nay (Brannon). Motion carried.

V. Sewer Employee Position

Deputy Clerk/City Planner Hughes-Neel presented the current job description for Maintenance Tech/Wastewater.

Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens motioned to advertise for the position as stated in the job description. The Mayor and Sewer Supervisor will interview the candidates and bring a recommendation to the Council. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

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Mayor Barley notified the Council that the three candidates who interviewed for the Fiscal Services Clerk position, who the Council had voted in September to allow to interview for the Staff Accountant position when it was re-advertised; those three candidates do not meet the minimum requirements for the Staff Accountant position.

Council Action: Councilman Farris motioned to interview only the four candidates who had applied for the Staff Accountant position and met the minimum qualifications. Councilwoman Brannon seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

VI. Meeting Adjourned

Mayor Barley called for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman McLean motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

FREEPORT CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

Council President

ATTEST:

City Clerk